

What is Claimed is:

1. A method for evidencing postage on a mailpiece comprising the steps of:
 - receiving at a data center postal information relating to a mailpiece, said postal information including recipient address information for the mailpiece;
 - generating a digital token for the mailpiece, said digital token including encrypted information for the mailpiece based on said recipient address information;
 - creating a transaction record, said transaction record including the digital token and the postal information;
 - signing the transaction record;
 - storing the transaction record in a database; and
 - performing value added services using the transaction record.
- 15 2. A system for dispensing postage value, comprising:
 - a data center communicatively coupled to a plurality of remote processors, said remote processors initiating requests to the data center for dispensing postage value to be printed by a printer controlled by the remote processor, the data center comprising:
 - means for communicating with the remote processors, said communicating means receiving said requests for dispensing postage value;
 - means coupled to the communicating means for storing data records, said data records including user account information and meter account information associated with a plurality of users of users accessing the data center through said remote processors;
 - means coupled to the communicating means and the storing means for metering using said user account information and said meter account information; and
 - means coupled to the communicating means, the storing means and the metering means for performing administrative functions within the data center.

3. The system of claim 2 wherein the communicating means includes a communication server, the storage means includes a database server, the means for performing administrative functions includes a function server, and said metering means includes a secure meter box.
4. The system of claim 3 wherein each user has at least one meter account, each said meter account being assigned to one of the users accessing the data center.
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5. The system of claim 3 wherein said secure meter box and said function server control the dispensing of postage value from each said meter account.
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6. The system of claim 3 wherein said administrative functions include creating and signing transaction records which are stored at said database server, each of said records corresponding to each postage dispensing transaction.
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7. The system of claim 6 wherein said function server provides value-added services, said value-added services including on-line rating, special mail services, address cleansing and postal coding services.
8. The system of claim 6 wherein said administrative functions include performing on-line track of all postal transaction processed by the data center.

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